(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the Scheme	2004-05		2005-06	
	Release	Utilization	Release	Utilization
Special Central Assistance To Scheduled Caste Sub Plan	800.00	731.14	623.82	728.71*
Post Matric Scholarship for SC students	228.28	324.97	490.41	NR
Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in Unclean occupations)	4.22	NR	1.25	NR
Post Matric Scholarship to OBC students	100.02	NR	0	0

NR: Not Reported.

*Includes expenditure out of unspent balance of previous years.

(b) and (c) During 2004-05 and 2005-06 Rs. 22.46 lakhs and Rs. 38.71 lakhs respectively were released to NGOs for the welfare of physically handicapped.

Backward class population in the country

†689. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the different opinions have been given about the population of the backward classes in the report of National Sample Survey Organisation for the year 1999-2000 and in the Mandal Commission Report;

(b) if so, the population of the backward classes put forth in the above cited reports, separately; and

(c) whether Government have taken a final decision about the population of the aforesaid class keeping in view the above said reports?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the report of National Sample Survey Organisation for the year 1999-2000, the population of backward classes is as under:—

Area	OBC population
Rural	37.4%
Urban	31.4%

As per Mandal Commission's Report, the total backward classes population was 52.1% as per census conducted in 1931.

(c) No, Sir.

Inter-caste marriages

690. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Supreme Court has directed the administration and police throughout the country to protect the couples doing inter-caste marriages from harassment and violence;

(b) if so, the role of the Ministry in promoting inter-caste marriages; and

(c) the schemes available to guard the interest of couples of inter-caste marriages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the Centrally sponsored scheme for implementation of provisions of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, due Central assistance is provided to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The scheme also covers provisions of incentive to couples of inter-caste marriages.